

REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE

Form Approved
OMB No. 0704-0188

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Washington Headquarters Services, Directorate for Information Operations and Reports, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington, VA 22202-4302, and to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0704-0188), Washington, DC 20503.

1. AGENCY USE ONLY (Leave Blank)		2. REPORT DATE March 1984	3. REPORT TYPE AND DATES COVERED Final	
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE Summary of Commentary in Pravda on Sub-Saharan Africa			5. FUNDING NUMBERS	
6. AUTHOR(S) Gerald Cady Rachel Warner John Stepanchuk				
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) Federal Research Division Library of Congress Washington, DC 20540-4840			8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER	
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) N/A			10. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY REPORT NUMBER	
11. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES Prepared under an Interagency Agreement				
12a. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT Approved for public release; distribution unlimited.			12b. DISTRIBUTION CODE	
13. ABSTRACT (Maximum 200 words) This monthly survey compiles translations of political, and economic articles on sub-Saharan Africa that appear in <u>Pravda</u> . INFO QUALITY INTERESTED 4				
14. SUBJECT TERMS Africa, Sub-Sahara Government National security Politics Economy			15. NUMBER OF PAGES Various lengths	
			16. PRICE CODE	
17. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF REPORT UNCLASSIFIED	18. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE UNCLASSIFIED	19. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF ABSTRACT UNCLASSIFIED	20. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT SAR	

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SUMMARY OF COMMENTARY IN PRAVDA ON SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA
(January 22 - February 21, 1984)

March 1984

Prepared by the Federal Research Division of
the Library of Congress under an interagency agreement

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PREFACE

This monthly survey compiles articles on sub-Saharan Africa which appear in Pravda. It has been prepared since April 1980. Pravda is the official newspaper of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Items published are presumably authoritative. Articles dealing with Soviet political, military, or economic interests in Africa are entirely translated or extensively excerpted or summarized. News accounts which heavily rely on news services of other countries are simply noted. All entries have been arranged chronologically under general African or country headings. FBIS translations are summarized or annotated for reader reference; duplication is avoided.

SUMMARY OF COMMENTARY IN PRAVDA ON SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

(22 January - 21 February 1984)

Africa General

Trade Agreement

(Excerpt) It was announced in Addis Ababa that in July of this year an agreement will take effect for a preferential trade zone in eastern and southern Africa which was signed in Lusaka in 1981. The agreement was joined by a majority of the 20 countries in this region, covering 8.3 million square kilometers and 140 million inhabitants. The agreement envisages increased trade and other forms of economic cooperation among the regional countries. (22 Jan 84, p. 1)

OAU Commission Meets

(Excerpt) In Accra, Ghana, the eighth session of the OAU's Commission on Questions of Defense is taking place. The Commission is studying the question of establishing an African defense force as well as examining the situation in southern Africa with regard to South African aggression against the frontline states. (26 Jan 84, p. 5)

OAU Session Concludes

(Excerpt) The work of the eighth session of the OAU's Commission on Defense concluded in Accra. It was attended by representatives from 28 African countries. The session approved a declaration which stated that it is the firm desire of the people of Africa to be free from colonialism, foreign occupation and apartheid. (1 Feb 84, p. 4)

Pharmaceutical Piracy

(Excerpt) The newspapers and radio stations of many sub-Saharan African countries are reporting on a vicious practice by transnational corporations to control the manufacture and dissemination of medicines in developing countries. (9 Feb 84, p. 5)

Andropov's Death

(Summary) Letters of condolence on the occasion of Andropov's death were sent by Ethiopia, Madagascar, Angola, Mozambique, Congo, Guinea, Mali, Sao Tome and Principe, the African National Congress of South Africa, SWAPO, Zimbabwe, and Benin. (12 Feb 84, p. 4; 13 Feb 84, p. 5; 14 Feb 84, pp. 4 and 5; 15 Feb 84, p. 4)

Conference Opens

(Excerpt) The work of the International Solidarity Conference with the Liberation Struggle of the People of Southern Africa began in Accra, Ghana. (17 Feb 84, p. 5)

Conference Releases Declaration

(Excerpt) Participants of the Solidarity Conference in Accra focused on the threat to the whole world posed by South Africa. A declaration was released decisively blaming the imperialist powers which have breached the embargo on delivery of arms to South Africa imposed by the UN Security Council and which continue to arm the Pretoria regime and help it to develop its own modern military technology and nuclear capability. (18 Feb 84, p. 5)

Southern Africa

Solutions Discussed

(Excerpt) In Zambia's capital, Lusaka, a meeting took place between representatives of Angola, South Africa and the United States in which the removal of troops from southern Angola was discussed. In the West, this was viewed as a gesture of "good will" on the part of South Africa. The real basis for the Namibian settlement lies in UN Resolution 435 which provides for the withdrawal from Namibia of South African troops and the holding of elections. (21 Feb 84, p. 5)

Southern Africa/Namibia

Joint Statement

(Excerpt) Resolution 435 of the UN Security Council is fundamental to achieving independence for Namibia, said Zambian President Kaunda and Angolan President dos Santos in a communique released in Lusaka during the Angolan head of state's visit to Zambia. (7 Feb 84, p. 5)

Angola

Military Offensive

(Excerpt) Angola's armed forces, FAPLA, launched an offensive against UNITA guerrillas from 7 to 9 January in North Cuanza and Bengale provinces. As a result of this military action, hundreds of bandits were killed and arms were seized. (22 Jan 84, p. 4)

US Aid to Antigovernment Rebels

(Excerpt) According to reports in the London Observer, American representatives and South African racists held a secret meeting during which they discussed "steps toward the destabilization of the Angolan Government." Governing circles in the United States are inspiring counterrevolutionary activities against Angola. The CIA has been assisting antigovernment bands both financially and militarily for a long time. (27 Jan 84, p. 5)

Gift Presentation

(Excerpt) In Luanda, a ceremony for the presentation to Angola of medicine from the Soviet Red Cross and Red Crescent took place. (15 Feb 84, p. 5)

Chad

French Aircraft Involved in Operations

(Excerpt) France's Minister of National Defense Hernu said that French military planes participated on 24 January in operations against enemy camps 300 kilometers north of N'Djamena, not far from the border with Egypt. One of the French Jaguars crashed, killing its pilot. (27 Jan 84, p. 5)

French Involvement

(Excerpt) By order of the French command from Gabon, four Jaguar fighters, two fuel planes, and one reconnaissance plane with radar have been transferred to Chad. The Paris newspaper Figaro reports that at least ten French military planes are expected in N'Djamena. (28 Jan 84, p. 5)

French Military Expansion

(Excerpt) French invasion forces in Chad have been ordered to expand the occupied zone and to attack any troops which cross the border into this zone. In accordance with orders from the French Minister of National Defense, French troops stationed in Chad advanced more than 100 kilometers to the north of the 15th parallel. (29 Jan 84, p. 5)

Escalating Aggression

(Excerpt) According to reports from N'Djamena, French interventionist troops in Chad took new positions as a result of the capture of the boundary along the 16th parallel between the cities of Koro-Toro and Oum-Chalouba. Military observers report that the French are preparing an offensive against Oueddei's troops with the goal of shifting the power balance in favor of Habre. Paris continues to increase the might of its air force in Chad, sending planes from bases in southern France and Gabon. (30 Jan 84, p. 5)

French CP Position

(Excerpt) The recent intensification of the situation in Chad remains at the center of attention in political circles and information sources. Speaking at a press conference in Toulouses, Communist Party Secretary General Georges Marchais noted that the position of the French Communist Party in regard to Chad remains unchanged, and that France has been involved in a prolonged war and will have to act more effectively to initiate talks between the two sides. (31 Jan 84, p. 5)

Appointment of General

(Excerpt) Following the decision to advance interventionist forces into Chad's northern regions, it was announced that French General Lacaz would be Head of Armed Forces. (1 Feb 84, p. 5)

New Offensive Preparations

(Excerpt) According to reports from N'Djamena, interventionist troops in Chad are actively preparing for an offensive against GUNT forces. Taking new positions in northern Chad, French troops have undertaken the task of pushing out GUNT forces from villages. French Minister of Foreign Affairs C. Cheysson has begun a trip to Chad. The Western press reports that one of the goals of his visit is to give additional help to the Habre regime. (2 Feb 84, p. 5)

Offensive Undertaken

(Excerpt) According to reports from N'Djamena, units under the Habre regime, cooperating with French forces, have launched an offensive on positions held by GUNT forces. French Minister of Foreign Affairs Cheysson has arrived in Chad and, as France Presse reports, he "is reviewing the present situation in Chad with Habre." (3 Feb 84, p. 5)

Cheysson Visit

(Excerpt) French Minister Cheysson emphasized the necessity of support from Paris to the pro-American Habre regime during his visit to Chad. Finishing his talks with Habre, Cheysson said that France will not withdraw its troops from Chad as long as the regime in N'Djamena remains the object of "aggression." (4 Feb 84, p. 5)

GUNT Victories

(Excerpt) Soldiers of the Habre regime, during battles against Oueddei's GUNT forces, are suffering significant losses. According to France Presse reports from N'Djamena, units of GUNT have killed over 350 of Habre's soldiers and officers. (5 Feb 84, p. 5)

GUNT Military Actions

(Excerpt) GUNT forces are inflicting appreciable blows against Habre's forces. According to Libyan television reports, GUNT has blocked the region of Oum-Dam where army units of the enemy are located. (6 Feb 84, p. 5)

French Minister In Africa

(Excerpt) The visit of French Minister of External Affairs Cheysson to N'Djamena, Addis Ababa and Tripoli has just concluded. During his travels, a great deal of attention was given to the Chad problem. (7 Feb 84, p. 5)

Ethiopia

Party Formation

(Excerpt) The formation of an avant-garde party has tremendous historical significance for the country, said Ethiopian President Mengistu in Addis Ababa during a COPWE Central Committee plenum. In a speech to the plenum, Mengistu said that recently 240 primary, 70 district and 33 regional COPWE organizations have been formed. (25 Jan 84, p. 4)

Development in Outlying Province

(Excerpt) In Ethiopia's most western province of Illubabop, which was a forgotten area before the revolution, the most change has occurred, especially in regard to the children. A children's home opened a few days ago which contains a school and a great deal of land for agricultural work. (25 Jan 84, p. 5)

Ethiopian Agriculture

(Excerpt) Cattle breeding, an important field in Ethiopian agriculture, is part of the country's export production. In Ethiopia, 27 million head of cattle and 24 million sheep have been counted. (30 Jan 84, p. 5)

Eritrean Literacy

(Text) Almost 73 percent of Eritrea's urban population are now literate. Since the beginning of the literacy campaign, 178,000 people have learned to read and write in this province. (2 Feb 84, p. 5)

Military Registration

(Excerpt) In Ethiopia the registration of youth for military service is taking place. More than a million young people have signed up on the lists which are being used to form peasant and urban associations. (4 Feb 84, p. 5)

Counterrevolutionary Group Exposed

(Excerpt) In Addis Ababa a counterrevolutionary movement was exposed and three leaders of the "Ethiopian People's Democratic Union" were arrested along with 15 of their colleagues. This secret group has acted in the interests of feudalism. (6 Feb 84, p. 5)

Expulsion of US Diplomats

(Excerpt) According to France Presse reports from Nairobi, four members of the American diplomatic corps in Ethiopia have been expelled from the country. The American embassy in Addis Ababa reported that they have already flown to the United States. A State Department representative claimed that the expulsion of the American diplomats came two days after the announcement by PMAC of the arrest of groups of counterrevolutionary groups which obtained a collection of secret information. (8 Feb 84, p. 5)

Revolutionary Cadres

(Excerpt) In the political school "Yekatit-66," the graduation of a group of students occurred. The school was created after the Ethiopian revolution for the training of political and ideological cadres. (11 Feb 84, p. 5)

Arrival of Warships

(Excerpt) A fleet of Soviet warships has arrived in the port of Massawa for an official friendship visit. (18 Feb 84, p. 4)

Ghana

Cocoa Production

(Excerpt) In 10 years, Ghana has become the primary world producer of cocoa-beans. In bumper crop years, Ghana has presented to the world market up to 500,000 tons of "brown gold." (22 Jan 84, p. 5)

Drought Related Fires Destroy Crops

(Excerpt) Last year, as the result of fires due to the prolonged drought, Ghana lost about 30 percent of its cocoa-bean crops. The Government allotted resources for the restoration of the destroyed crops to be headed by national defense committees of the revolution created by the working masses. (6 Feb 84, p. 5)

Ceramics Flourish

(Excerpt) In the trading center in Accra's central area, an auction took place of African ceramics. Artistic and moulding shops were located in simple, spacious buildings. Mostly young people came in.

Today Ghana is suffering through a difficult economic crisis. Many specialists have left the country in search of stable work. But no one is leaving the ceramic workshop of Winneba, 70 kilometers to the west of Accra which was established 10 years ago to continue a family tradition. (16 Feb 84, p. 5)

Committee's Initiatives

(Excerpt) One of the most important elements of Socialist life was affirmed by the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution. The Committees were elected more than two years ago with the coming to power in Ghana of the military. Through the initiatives of the Committees, roads and bridges have been repaired, and medical aid stations and schools have been built. (21 Feb 84, p. 4)

Madagascar

Meeting in Moscow

(Excerpt) On 15 February a meeting took place between USSR Council of Ministers Deputy Chairman N.K. Baybakov and Malagasy President Ratsiraka. They discussed questions of economic cooperation. (16 Feb 84, p. 4)

Meeting in Kremlin

(Summary) On 18 February, a meeting took place between Soviet Party General Secretary Konstantin Chernenko and President Didier Ratsiraka in the Kremlin. A friendly conversation was held which was also attended by other high officials on both sides. (18 Feb 84, p. 1)

Mozambique

Soviet Response to Emergency

(Excerpt) The Soviet societies of the Red Cross and Red Crescent have given gifts of medicine, tents and clothes, as well as other necessities to the people of Mozambique following damage inflicted by tropical storm Domoina. (11 Feb 84, p. 4)

Nigeria/Chad

Buhari Statement

(Excerpt) In an interview with Reuters, Nigerian leader Buhari spoke of the necessity of removing all foreign troops from Chad. (11 Feb 84, p. 5)

Republic of South Africa

Inflation Figures

(Text) The level of inflation in South Africa was 11 percent last year. Prices for basic food items rose by 11.8 percent. (22 Jan 84, p. 5)

US Military Transfers

(Excerpt) New information has emerged about the role of the United States in supplying the South African army. Operating in the United States are anti-racist organizations--the Committee of American Friends and the Washington Bureau on African Affairs gave the press their observations of American and South African trade. They claim that the American Administration has increased supplies to South Africa's armed forces. From 1981 to 1983, one of the documents states, the US State Department transferred \$28.3 million worth of military materials. (7 Feb 84, p. 5)

Demonstration Ends in Arrests

(Excerpt) Special units of police were involved in a struggle to disperse black students demonstrating in Atteridgeville, a suburb of Pretoria. Twenty youths were arrested. (16 Feb 84, p. 5)

Republic of South Africa/Southern Africa

South African Peace Initiative

(Excerpt) South African Prime Minister P. Botha is once again trying on the worn mask of peacemaker. In the country's Parliament, he announced the start of the withdrawal of South African troops from Angola. The highranking racist presented this step as "an important peace initiative for Namibia," as well as a measure aimed at reducing tension in southern Africa as a whole. (4 Feb 84, p. 5)

Seychelles

New Ambassador

(Excerpt) The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from the Seychelles, Daniel de Saint George, presented his credentials in the Kremlin to USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium Deputy Chairman P.Y. Strautmanis on 3 February. (4 Feb 84, p. 4)

Upper Volta

Life in Upper Volta

(Excerpt) Upper Volta is one of the most poorly developed countries in the world. Devoid of useful minerals and landlocked, the country is France's forgotten former possession in West Africa.

Ninety-two percent of the country's seven million inhabitants are illiterate. One doctor serves approximately 60,000 people. According to UN data, three quarters of Upper Volta's inhabitants live in conditions of poverty and are hungry.

Development of agriculture, in which the majority of the population is involved, is hindered by a water shortage, poor soil, and antiquated equipment. In the international arena, the country's leaders are trying to strengthen ties with neighbors and other African countries. (20 Feb 84, p. 5)